

I am an attorney in New Orleans, and own a small record label and have managed bands. One of the bands I managed was blocked from local airplay, despite thousands of listener requests and a huge regional fan base, and despite having sold thousands of records on their own, solely because they were not on the "national playlist", a list 100% reserved for bands signed by major labels. In other words, access to the so called "public" airwaves was repeatedly and unfairly denied the public. Radio spins drive record sales, and the unjust denial of same directly impacts sales, which in turn directly affects the ability to expand the fan base, which impacts the ability to attract a major label. Our experience is not an exception, it is the rule, where musicians and their fans are regularly prohibited access to the "public" airwaves, which are reserved for the major labels which completely control access. In today's market, Elvis and the Beatles would not be known to the public, unless they were lucky enough to be one of the very few bands who miraculously attracted the attention of some so called "A&R" genius. This is why this generation has no real music, but is forced to listen to the fake pablum put out by the conglomerates which are the "music industry". In fact this is so well known that the real reason bands will do anything to get any kind of record deal, no matter how bad of a deal it is, is because it is the ONLY way to get radio airplay, period. Once a band has a song on the radio, it can then eventually control it's destiny, after getting out of or renegotiating the bad label deal. Without radio airplay, they cannot get anywhere. There is no correspondence whatsoever between what the public wants to hear, and what it gets to hear. What a shame, what a mess, how unfair.

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